



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 17, 2011

CONTACT: Susan Sullam (Cardin)
410-962-4436

CARDIN, MIKULSKI ANNOUNCE FEDERAL FUNDING FOR FIREFIGHTING EQUIPMENT IN FREDERICK COUNTY

Grant will help volunteer fire department purchase air tanks, radios and firefighting tools.

WASHINGTON, D.C. – **U.S. Senators Benjamin L. Cardin** and **Barbara A. Mikulski** (both D-Md.) today announced the New Market District Volunteer Fire Company won \$83,192 in federal funding through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program to purchase firefighting equipment. As a member of the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee, Senator Mikulski fights each year to increase federal funding for the fire grants program. Senator Cardin is a member of the Finance and Budget committees.

"Now more than ever, we need to make sure that our first responders have the resources they need to protect our families and communities," **Senator Cardin** said. "From fires to natural disasters to possible terrorist threats, these brave men and women put their lives on the line for all of us. Federal investment in our first responders is vital because we must ensure that they have the equipment and training they need to protect us from harm and to perform their jobs safely and efficiently."

"I know how important this funding is to Maryland communities – often it's the difference between life and death. First responders protect our homes and communities, and the federal government has a responsibility to protect them by providing them with the tools they need to do their jobs safer and smarter," **Senator Mikulski** said. "Every day when our first responders report for duty, they don't know what they will face. That's why I fight every year for the equipment, training, and staffing our protectors and communities deserve."

The grant funds will allow the New Market District Volunteer Fire Company to purchase six new self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) units, which allow firefighters to breathe inside smoke-filled buildings. The grant will also fund the purchase radios, hoses, nozzles and rescue tools. For more information, please contact Benjamin Nalborczyk at 301-600-2573.

AFGP grants fund firefighting equipment, personal protection equipment, training, firefighting vehicles, firefighter/first responder safety projects, and staffing recruitment and retention, as well as public fire safety education.

Since 2001, Maryland fire departments and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) units have received more than \$95 million in AFGP funding, nearly \$5 million of which has gone to fire departments in Frederick County.

###